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This application is a CIP of 89/621,542 07/21/2000

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of The Invention

The present invention relates to an optical recording/reproducing apparatus which records information onto or reproduces information from a recording medium, such as an optical disk, by focusing a laser beam emitted by a semiconductor laser, on a recording layer of the recording medium.

2. Description of The Related Art

In these years, there are various optical read-only recording media, such as CD (compact disk), CD-ROM (compact disk read-only memory), DVD (digital versatile disk), etc., and optical reproducing systems, or optical disk players, which reproduce information from these recording media, are put into practical use.

In addition, the read-only recording media have their rewritable equivalents, including optical write-once read-many recording media (such as CD-R), magneto-optical recording media (such as MO), and phase-change recording media (such as DVD-rewritable). The special attention is given to the phase-change recording media (typically, DVD-rewritable disks) as mass-storage recording media in the next generation, and optical recording/reproducing systems, or optical disk drives, which record data onto and reproduce data from the phase-change media are proceeding towards practical applications.

The phase-change recording media utilize a process called the phase change technology to write and erase data. In this process,